

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume IX, Number 11

September 1961



Churches Celebrate 75th Anniversaries

The Deer Lodge, Tenn., and the Barton's Chapel, Robbins, Tenn., Congregational Christian Churches jointly celebrated their 75th anniversaries at special services held on August 12-13.

Actually, the Deer Lodge Church was organized in 1887 and Barton's Chapel in 1885, but to the people and the minister, Rev. Annie R. Campbell, it seemed wise to hold the observances jointly this year.

Pictured above are, left to right, Rev. Orval W. Sampson, former pastor and now at Hart, Mich., Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, moderator of the Southeast Convention, Dr. Fred P. Ensminger, former superintendent of the convention, Rev. R. Hugh Lasseter, former pastor, Rev. William R. Schorman, former pastor now at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Rev. Annie R. Campbell. Supt. J. H. Lightbourne also participated in the services.

The new church building of the Crossville, Tennessee, Congregational Christian Church was to be dedicated on September 10th. A story and picture will be presented in a later issue of the Southeast News.

Fall Association And Conference Meetings Scheduled For October

The annual fall meetings of the associations and conferences of the Southeast Convention will be held during the period of September 30-October 14.

The Reverend Joseph Moulton, a Congregational Christian Missionary in India for 41 years, will be the guest speaker for the meetings.

The schedule of meetings is as follows:

North Alabama Association: Sept. 30-October 1, Mt. Lebanon Church, Steele, Alabama (Begins 1:30 p. m.)

Central Alabama Association: Oct. 2, Watson's Chapel Church, 3:30 p. m.

S. Alabama-N. W. Florida Association: October 3-4, Blackwoods Church, Headland, Ala., 2:00 p. m.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference: Oct. 7-8, Evarts, Kentucky, 1:00 p. m.

East Alabama Association: Oct. 11, Rock Stand, 10:00 a. m. CST; Oct. 12, First Church, Phenix City, 10:00 a. m. EST.

Georgia-South Carolina Conference: Oct. 13-14, Duncan's Creek Church, Buford, Ga., 1:00 p. m.

Every church is urged to be represented at the meeting of its association or conference by delegates and its pastor. All ministers of the conferences and associations are urged to attend.

Mr. Moulton served in western India, near Bombay, where he did rural work as a preacher, social worker, and Christian teacher. He organized literacy courses, worked with some 30 churches and their many congregations scattered over a "parish" of 2,500 helped to improve the villages in general, aided in plans for the economic development of this area, and rural.

Much of Mr. Moulton's work required extensive traveling. He traveled so



much he acquired the name "Maine Pilgrim" from an automobile so named and presented to him by churches of the state of Maine. Previously he had traveled by bicycle, bullock cart, and "shank's mare".

Born in Middle Haddam, Conn., he was educated at Bates College and the Hartford Theological Seminary. In 1940 Bates College conferred upon him an honorary Master of Arts degree. He was commissioned by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, overseas agency of the Congregational Christian Churches, in 1918.

Mr. Moulton has four daughters. Mrs. Moulton died in 1956. He is living at the Walker Missionary Home, Auburn-dale, Mass.

Important business and interesting programs will mark the meetings of each association and conference. Visitors, as well as delegates from the churches, will be welcome at the sessions.

An Open Letter To Congregational Christians

From Rev. David H. Sandstrom, Minister of the Missions School

I am writing about an audacious undertaking — the decision of our fellowship to seek \$11,500,000 for Our Christian World Mission by the end of 1962 — a 60 per cent increase over 1960 giving.

This \$11,500,000 goal comes at the very time when we are moving into the United Church of Christ, and it comes also in the midst of the Christian Higher Education Fund and many conference appeals.

The decision to raise \$11,500,000 was made at the 1960 Midwinter Meeting of the Missions Council. This meeting was attended by five hundred leaders in our fellowship and included members and staffs of the boards, conference superintendents with many of their staff members, members of the executive committee of the General Council, the state women's presidents and chairmen of state conference stewardship committees.

After this body of church members heard reports on financial crises in several of the boards they voted unanimously for this goal. The decision was reconfirmed at the 1961 Midwinter Meeting and plans were made to achieve it.

The story is now being carried to our churches. Their response will be manifest in the fall when most of them hold their Christian Enlistments. Some conferences began to communicate the appeal to their churches last year. But the majority are learning about it now for the first time.

The \$11,500,000 fund, which will take care of the known minimum requirements of our boards, has been the result of careful study.

Many retired ministers have been living on annuities woefully inadequate to meet their needs. Beginning this year all retired annuitants over 70 years old will receive substantial increases. This has been made possible by including the Annuity Fund in the allocation of monies given by the churches to Our Christian World Mission.

The inclusion of the Annuity Fund in the distribution of the Regular Apportionment (the churches giving to the budgeted work of the conferences and boards) means that conferences and boards will receive smaller percentages with which to work and they are not in a position to have their in-

comes reduced.

The American Board in 1960 found it necessary to draw \$292,666 from its reserve funds for its budgeted work; it estimates a withdrawal of \$347,138 in 1961. The Board of Home Missions in preparing its 1960-61 budget estimated it would need to draw \$425,000.00 from its reserve funds. As the fiscal year draws to a close, this estimate appears to be correct. Reserve funds are emergency funds. The boards cannot continue to drain their reserves and at the same time maintain financial stability. Unless additional money is made available, they will be forced to cut back on their work.

The Congregational Christian Service Committee will suffer the largest cut as a result of the new percentage distribution. It is hoped that increased giving in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will counterbalance some of the loss. However, in 1960, even without this loss, the Service Committee was unable to accept its full share of the relief programs of Church World Service and the World Council of Churches.

The overall fact is that our united work as Congregational Christian churches is frustrated by support from the churches that despite its increase from year to year does little more than absorb inflation.

The \$11,500,000 goal is therefore a modest appeal when we consider the world pressures behind it. These pressures are spelled out for us every day through newspapers and periodicals, television and radio. What else can we do? Is the church to retreat in this decisive hour in history? Is it to withdraw when other agencies, both governmental and private, are redoubling their efforts to lead mankind from the edge of the abyss? Is it to retrench when man is crying for the meaning of life, when his materialism and his lack of purpose are not a rejection of Christianity — not this so much as a need for Christ?

What are the prospects for obtaining the \$11,500,000? The people of our churches have the financial capacity. I believe they have the will and the heart. I also believe this is the right time for such an effort.

Many CC churches complete their giving to the Christian Higher Education Fund this year. They will have

been making payments over a two-year period. If in 1962 they add one-half of the total of their Fund giving to their regular Our Christian World Mission, we will have taken a long stride toward attaining our goal of \$11,500,000.

Many churches are also beginning to look at their benevolence programs in a new light. They are determining the size of their missionary giving by a ratio of benevolences to local church expenses, an amount equal to perhaps 25 per cent, 50 per cent or even up to 100 per cent of the amount allocated for the local church budget. A church thus providing for work beyond its parish borders does not find it a burden.

In July of this year we became the United Church of Christ. This means that our 1962 goal extends into that period when the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed communions will be one. This does not detract from our objective, however. In fact, we are pursuing it more vigorously. The United Church will not lessen the importance of the work that each communion has done separately. And only as we of Congregational Christian background attain our \$11,500,000 goal will we be more evenly yoked with members of the Evangelical and Reformed tradition as together we advance Our Christian World Mission.

We who are concerned with Our Christian World Mission can do something in our local churches. We can seek out members of the budget committees and other church leaders, and share with them our information, conviction, and hope. We must not wait until our local church votes on its regular budgets. A church can fail in its world-wide obligation if no one pleads its case at the right time with the right people.

This is the right time!

The news of the death of Rev. W. Carl Parker, pastor emeritus of the Fredonia Church, Barnesville, Ga., has just been received. The death took place on September 7. Rev. J. Kermit Harris, pastor of the church, conducted services for Mr. Parker on Saturday, September 9, at Fredonia Church. An additional story will be carried in the next issue of The Southeast News.

Dr. Thomas Anderson Retired September 1st After Long And Effective Atlanta Ministry

(The article that follows was written by Miss Laura Link, Religious News Editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and appeared in that newspaper after the announcement of the resignation of Dr. Thomas Anderson as minister of Central Congregational Church. Dr. Anderson's resignation took effect September 1, 1961. During the 18 years of his ministry in Atlanta he has been active in the affairs of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference and the Southeast Convention. His valued leadership will be missed.)

"Goodness is so doggone tough it's hard to kill."

An Atlanta minister who knows more about all types of people than most ministers know about their own parishioners talked about his experience with man and the human soul.

Dr. Thomas Anderson soon will be transferring from one phase of the Christian ministry — the metropolitan pastor — to another — writer.

The minister who has made the intellectual study of man his business has served as pastor of the Central Congregational Church at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Piedmont Avenues for the past 18 years.

"You get deep into the worst of lives and find the same kind of hungers of the soul you find in the most devout saint," he said.

Dr. Anderson has led one of the most varied and active lives imaginable. During his summer vacations he often took jobs as a taxi driver, a cook on a fishing boat, a fruit picker, a deck-hand on a tug, an employee in a gambling club in Reno, and as a street repair worker.

These summer jobs were sociological experiments Dr. Anderson conducted to learn more about people. "All experiences give you a broader outlook on life. When you live, work with, and share in the lives of people, you can't help but broaden your understanding of them." Dr. Anderson believes that he has come to a "certain understanding of humanity" he couldn't have found by placing himself in only one category of life.

The greatest experience a man can have, believes Dr. Anderson, is his decision on how he's going to invest his life.

He reached this experience on a rainy night in Sydney, Australia, at the age

of 15. He had run away from his California home and unpleasantness when he was 12 and been a stow-away on a merchant marine vessel.

Wandering through Sydney after his chores aboard ship were finished he lost track of time and his ship sailed without him. With 30 cents in his pocket he came upon a Salvation Army mission in an old converted warehouse. The hymn, "What a Friend I Have In Jesus," was being sung. "I had become quite a cynical kid, but that night I decided I needed a friend and I went in."

A Salvation Army captain, George Laws from England, took young Anderson home with him and began to tell him about human beings, their growth and achievements.

The impression the Salvationist made on the "cynical kid" was so great that Dr. Anderson quit the sea and went back to school — the sixth grade.

First he wanted to be an architect. But Dr. Anderson said he began to look back into history to see what had affected the human being "most fully." "It was the view of the man and principles of this Galilean carpenter. He dealt with the human spirit, the soul."

Dr. Anderson says his decision to enter the Christian ministry was no emotional experience of a spectacular nature. "It all stems back to that rainy night in Sydney. History, logic, reason told me to become a Christian minister.

Leaning back from his desk, Dr. Anderson reflected for a minute on what advice he would give young ministerial students investing their lives.

"Advice is easily given, you know. I would certainly advise them to love people, despite everything. One of the basic causes of lessened success in the ministry is lack of adequate training and dedication of oneself," he said.

"I use the words 'lessened success' because I seldom use the word 'failure.' No one is a complete failure."

"This whole idea of success being a matter of size is folly," he said, referring to expanding church plants. "The only adequate criterion of success of the Christian clergy and laymen is how well they can serve."

When he came to Atlanta the church was discouraged and near rock bottom. There were 84 members on the roll. Only 34 could be located.

Money was borrowed to paint the



building, other repairs made and the congregation began to grow with the city. During Dr. Anderson's ministry well over 1,000 members have been added. The church has a rapid turnover in membership, due to members moving from the city. Now there are 731 on the rolls.

Dr. Anderson, who boasts about his good health, says he's retiring from the pulpit to write while his health is still good. He believes he can influence and reach more people through writing than the parish ministry.

"When you feel there is something good to do — good, measured in terms of helping humanity — you ought to do it. And that's what I'm going to do."

HERE AND THERE

A "Family Night Program" was held by Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Ala., at which the families reported on vacation activities during the summer months.

* * * *

Rev. David W. Clark is the moderator of the North Alabama Association. Moderator of the Central Association is Rev. Harold C. Henderson. The Rev. N. A. Long serves in this capacity for the South Alabama - Northwest Florida Association.

* * * *

Rev. Clyde C. Flannery leads the Kentucky - Tennessee Conference and Rev. John D. Schofield the East Alabama Association. Rev. Robert Hendrix has become moderator of the Ga.-S. C. Conference.

* * * *

News has come to the convention office that Rev. Robert Shelton has resigned as minister of Huguley Church, Lanett, Alabama, and has been called to serve the Union Grove Church, Hal-eyville, Alabama.

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Promotion

Volume IX September 1961

No. 11

Superintendent's Corner

There are many subjects to which this space might be devoted this month. It is difficult to choose between them. Therefore, several matters of interest will be touched upon.

The fall meetings of the associations and conferences are almost upon us. Unless such action was taken last year, each of these bodies will be requested to vote to become an "Acting Association of the United Church of Christ."

This will be an important step. The Southeast Convention in its annual meeting in April voted to become an "Acting Conference of the United Church." Eventually steps will be taken to form a United Church Conference and United Church Associations in this area.

Another important matter is Our Christian World Mission and the Every Church Visitation Program. Each of the churches of the Southeast Convention should contribute to Our Christian World Mission. Unfortunately, not all do.

This fall every church in the convention will be contacted, either by a visiting team or by some other method, in the interest of its pledge to Our Christian World Mission.

Starting with where they are now, the churches will be urged to move forward on the "Stairway of Progress".

"First Step Goal" — 10c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses.

"Forward Goal" — 25c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses.

"Progress Goal" — 50c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses.

"Challenge Goal" — 75c for missions for each \$1.00 for current expenses.

"Ideal Goal" — \$1.00 for missions for

HERE AND THERE

The Family Camp of the Brookmeade Church, Nashville, was a success again this year. Thirty-two people from six families attended the camp August 13-20. Rev. and Mrs. Clyde C. Flannery directed the camp.

The Board of Directors of the convention met at the convention office on Tuesday, September 19.

Mr. William Hodnett, an active member of the Lanett, Ala., Congregational Christian Church, has been asked to give leadership to the Bethel Congregational Christian Church, West Point, Ga. It is grand that this fine Christian layman is willing to serve in this capacity.

Mr. Winford Walters, Licentiate of the East Association, who formerly served the Bethel, West Point, Ga., Church, has been called to serve Antioch Church (Roanoke) and Forest Home Church (Roanoke). Mr. Walters is a member of the Langdale Church.

A Great Opportunity

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church will hold its 15th World Order and United Nations Seminar in New York City, October 17-19, 1961. Rev. Herman F. Reissig will be the leader. Registrations or requests for information should be sent to the Rev. Mr. Reissig, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.

Rev. Clyde C. Flannery and Supt. James H. Lightbourne, Jr. attended the meeting of the Council for Christian Social Action in Washington, D. C., September 12-14.

The Southern Province Superinten-

each \$1.00 for current expenses.

Where does your church stand now on the stairway? Where should it stand next year? Three years from now? Five years from now?

The "Program of Progress" of the Southeast Convention and the 11 and ½ Million Dollar OCWM Goal of our Congregational Christian Churches depend on the response of the local churches to the challenge of our missionary responsibility.

dents of our Congregational Christian Churches met with Dr. Fred Hoskins, Minister of the General Council, at Franklinton Center, Bricks, N. C., September 11-12. Superintendent Lightbourne was among those attending.

Mr. George Wilbur Stowe, pastor of the Langdale Congregational Christian Church and a recent graduate of the Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., will be ordained to the Christian Ministry at services held on September 17th at the Congregational Christian Church, Canaan, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan G. Saunders now live at 6006 Dickson Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Saunders had to resign as moderator of the Southeast Convention when he was promoted to a new position in his company and moved out of the area.

Rev. W. M. McCullars has resigned as moderator of the Georgia - South Carolina Conference because of the press of church and personal affairs. Rev. Robert Hendrix, pastor of Union Hill Church and the former vice-moderator, will preside over the annual meeting of the conference.

Rochelle New Coach And Teacher At Southern Union

Alvis R. Rochelle Jr. has been appointed director of athletics at Southern Union College, according to President Walter A. Graham.

Mr. Rochelle, a native of Kentucky, received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, his major field of study being business administration, with a minor in history.

While at Vanderbilt, Mr. Rochelle distinguished himself in the field of basketball and was named All-SEC in the years 1955, 56, and 57. He served Vanderbilt in the capacity of freshman coach in 1959.

Mr. Rochelle has spent the last year in graduate study at Birmingham-Southern College. He is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and of the Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities Mr. Rochelle will teach business administration. Southern Union looks forward to an excellent year of athletics under his leadership.

People . . .

Alabama-N. W. Florida Women's Retreat Held

The Alabama - Northwest Florida Women's Fellowship held its annual Retreat on the campus of Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, July 28 and 29.

Miss Ellen Hull, of Langdale, president of the Fellowship, presided over the two-day session. Mrs. Raymond Berry, of Huntsville, served as Retreat chaplain. This Retreat proved to be one of the best because of its spiritual connotation. We wish to thank Miss Hull for her fine job of planning and executing the program, for getting Mrs. Berry for our chaplain, and Mrs. Kate Hornsby for our guest speaker on Saturday. Other guests who brought much interesting information on our mission field for this year, Latin America, were Miss Ann Varnon who showed slides and gave us insight on Education and Religion in Mexico that she acquired while doing teaching there as a student at the University of Alabama; and Rev. and Mrs. George C. Hewson, of Birmingham, who told of their experiences as crafts teachers in Honduras, and of the cultures of that Latin American country.

All of us were glad to get better acquainted with the Rev. Miss Emilie F. Pitcock, Minister of Christian Education of the Southeast Convention, and to hear from our new convention president, Miss Dora C. Brackin.

The new officers were installed by Miss Hull. They are:

President: Mrs. Harry Barr, 1703 14th Street, Phenix City; Vice-President, Mrs. W. Raymond Berry, 1222 Truman Drive, N. E., Huntsville; Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Floyd, 1809 13th Street, Phenix City; Treasurer, Mrs. Johnnie Rayland, Route 1, Lanett.

Area of Work chairmen:

Evangelism and Spiritual Life, Mrs. Marvin Brand, Route 6, Andalusia.

Christian Education, Mrs. J. R. Brackin, Route 1, Headland; Christian Social Action, Mrs. Lala Allen, Route 3, LaFayette; Friendly Service, Mrs. Fidelis Simmons, 1312 15th Place, Phenix City; Missionary Education, Mrs. Thomas Miles, Langdale; Stewardship and Woman's Gift, Miss Nonnie Looser, Lanett.

The group took the screening of Pil-

Churches . . .

Montgomery Church Fellowship Supper

On Wednesday, August 2, the Montgomery Church held a fellowship supper at the home of Millard and Linda Fuller. Those enjoying this occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Butler; Mr. and Mrs. William Dunson; Larry, Donna and Peggy Dunson; Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Davis; Sherry and Mickey Davis; Dr. and Mrs. Paul Nesbitt; Mr. and Mrs. Nat Venable; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cole and Richard; John David Pemberton; Grover Dick; Cleo Crane; Mr. and Mrs. Kernice Daughtry; Mrs. Edith Ward; and Mrs. Freddy Powell of Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee.

After supper an informal business meeting was called, with Millard Fuller moderating. Reports from the various committee chairmen were given. Some highlights of the meeting were: the adopting of a permanent name for the church. Hereafter the name of our church will be "Montgomery Congregational (A United Church of Christ)"; securing of church stationery; and voting to become a part of the Central District Association.

Freddy Powell spoke briefly of his recent attendance to the Third General Synod in Philadelphia. He told the group that our moderator, Millard Fuller, had been elected a corporate member of the Board of Home Missions.

At this time our greatest need is for a full-time minister. Superintendent Lightbourne and Grove Dick, head of our pulpit committee, are working toward meeting this need.

We extend an invitation to each of you to come to Montgomery and visit the newest church in the Southeast. We hold services every Sunday in the Administrative Building at Huntingdon College — Sunday School, 10:15;

grim Hall, the girls' dormitory, as our project for Southern Union College. The 32 churches that make up the Fellowship will have the opportunity to help in this worthwhile project. A committee composed of Mrs. A. D. Harry, chairman; Mrs. Noel Allen, and Mrs. Vinnie Mae Robertson, was appointed to work out definite plans.

Mrs. Noel Allen, Secretary
Alabama - Northwest Florida
Women's Fellowship

Events . . .

Churchmen's Fellowship Quarterly Banquet Held

The quarterly meeting of the East Alabama-West Georgia Churchmen's Fellowship was held at the Lanett Congregational Christian Church on Saturday, August 26, 1961. It was one of the best attended meetings of the past several years. There were 84 churchmen present, including 11 ministers. 13 churches were represented: Antioch, Roanoke; Lowell, Roanoke; Langdale; Lanett; First, Wadley; United, LaGrange; Mt. Olive, Tallassee; Russell Woods, Phenix City; Elder, Dadeville; East Tallassee; Noon Day, Wedowee. It was very encouraging to the Fellowship to have Mr. Millard Fuller and four other laymen from the recently organized Montgomery Church present.

The program for the evening began with a delicious meal, served to the visiting churchmen by the ladies of the Lanett Church. The speaker for the evening was the Rev. Glover from the Lanett Baptist Church. He gave a very interesting talk on the life and history of the honeybee.

Morning Worship, 11:00.

We are now striving to have 1000 churchmen present at the next Fellowship meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 25, 1961, at the Elder Church near Dadeville, Alabama. We hope that all you churchmen will be present at the next meeting. You will enjoy the program and the Christian fellowship with men of like mind and spirit.

Edward H. Thrash, Secy.-Treas.
E. Ala.-West Georgia
Churchmen's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Sunday

Remember Women's Fellowship Sunday, November 5th! It is hoped all fellowships will observe this day. The Women's Fellowship Sunday Packet is ready and its content most interesting. You may secure this packet for 50c from:

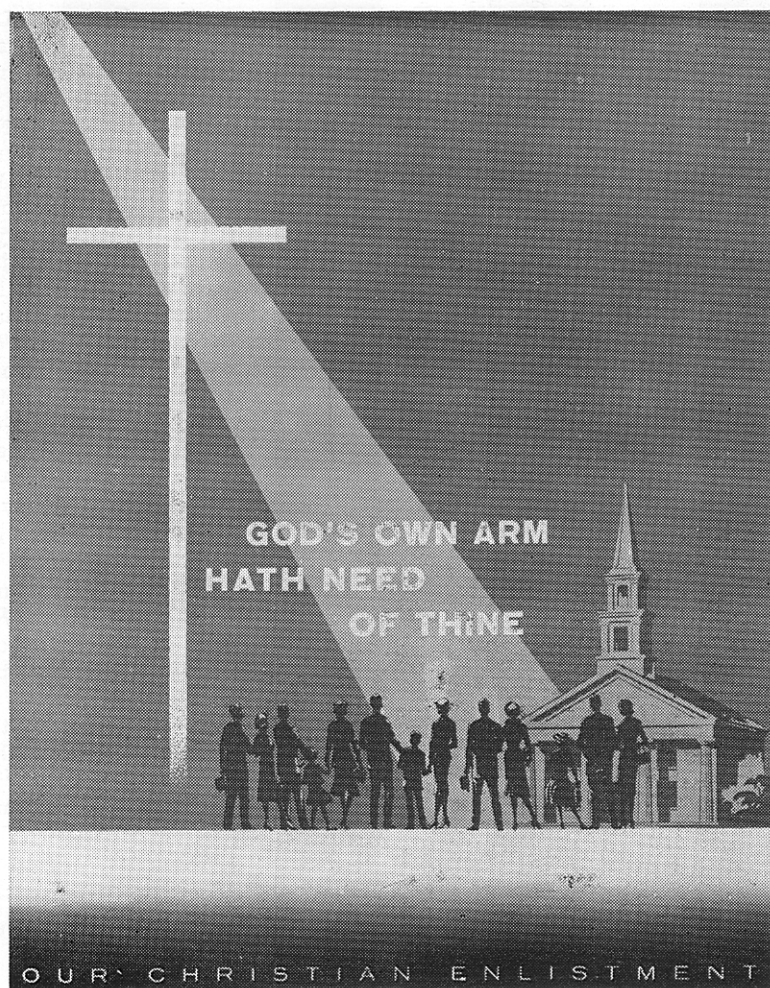
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